

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (Currently amended) A method that facilitates secure electronic
2 commerce, comprising:
 - 3 providing a consumer with a file of security data relating to an account
4 maintained by a financial institution, wherein the file of security data is provided
5 to the consumer on a smart card, and wherein the file of security data includes:
 - 6 a consumer identifier,
 - 7 a private key for encryption and authentication of data,
 - 8 a first public key related to the private key for decryption
9 and authentication of data,
 - 10 an identifier identifying the financial institution,
 - 11 a second public key belonging to the financial institution,
 - 12 the account number that has been encrypted with a key
13 known only to the financial institution creating an encrypted
14 account number,
 - 15 a first certificate signed by a recognized certificate authority
16 that validates the financial institution,
 - 17 a second certificate signed by the financial institution that
18 validates the consumer, and
 - 19 computer algorithms to use the file of security data;
 - 20 creating a financial transaction between the consumer and a merchant,
21 wherein the financial transaction is protected using security data from the file, and

22 wherein the financial transaction is structured to contain an account number in a
23 form that is undecipherable by the merchant, thereby prevent the merchant from
24 knowing the account number for the account, and wherein protecting the financial
25 transaction involves:

26 creating a first hash of the financial transaction, and
27 encrypting the first hash, the second certificate, and the
28 encrypted account number using the second public key creating a
29 secure envelope of transaction data, wherein the first hash is
30 created at a secure site available only to the consumer;

31 validating by the merchant that the financial institution identified by the
32 financial transaction is acceptable using security data from the file;

33 wherein validating by the merchant involves:

34 receiving at the merchant the first certificate; and

35 validating that the first certificate was signed by the recognized certificate
36 authority;

37 requesting by the merchant that the financial institution authorize the
38 financial transaction;

39 receiving by the merchant an authorization from the financial institution to
40 complete the financial transaction;

41 completing the financial transaction between the consumer and the
42 merchant; and

43 notifying the financial institution that the financial transaction is complete.

1 2-4 (Canceled).

1 5. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, wherein requesting
2 by the merchant that the financial institution authorize the financial transaction
3 involves:

4 creating a second hash of the financial transaction by the merchant;
5 sending the secure envelope and the second hash to the financial
6 institution;
7 decrypting at the financial institution the secure envelope using the private
8 key of the financial institution;
9 comparing the first hash with the second hash; and
10 if the first hash is identical to the second hash,
11 decrypting the encrypted account number to recover the
12 account number for the account belonging to the consumer,
13 verifying that the financial transaction is valid for the
14 account, and
15 if valid, authorizing the financial transaction.

1 6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein verifying that the financial
2 transaction is valid for the account includes:
3 verifying that the second certificate was signed by the financial institution;
4 determining that the account is valid; and
5 ensuring that a transaction amount is not greater than an authorized
6 transaction amount.

1 | 7. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, wherein the secure
2 site available only to the consumer is within the smart card.

1 8 (Canceled)

1 9. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing
2 instructions that when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform a
3 method that facilitates secure electronic commerce, comprising:

4 providing a consumer with a file of security data relating to an account
5 maintained by a financial institution, wherein the file of security data is provided
6 to the consumer on a smart card , and wherein the file of security data includes:
7 a consumer identifier,
8 a private key for encryption and authentication of data,
9 a first public key related to the private key for decryption
10 and authentication of data,
11 an identifier identifying the financial institution,
12 a second public key belonging to the financial institution,
13 the account number that has been encrypted with a key
14 known only to the financial institution creating an encrypted
15 account number,
16 a first certificate signed by a recognized certificate authority
17 that validates the financial institution,
18 a second certificate signed by the financial institution that
19 validates the consumer,
20 computer algorithms to use the file of security data;
21 creating a financial transaction between the consumer and a merchant,
22 wherein the financial transaction is protected using security data from the file, and
23 wherein the financial transaction is structured to contain an account number in a
24 form that is undecipherable by the merchant, thereby prevent the merchant from
25 knowing the account number for the account, and wherein protecting the financial
26 transaction involves:
27 creating a first hash of the financial transaction, and
28 encrypting the first hash, the second certificate, and the
29 encrypted account number using the second public key creating a
30 secure envelope of transaction data, wherein the first hash is
31 created at a secure site available only to the consumer;

32 validating by the merchant that the financial institution identified by the
33 financial transaction is acceptable using security data from the file;
34 wherein validating by the merchant involves:
35 receiving at the merchant the first certificate; and
36 validating that the first certificate was signed by the recognized certificate
37 authority;
38 requesting by the merchant that the financial institution authorize the
39 financial transaction;
40 receiving by the merchant an authorization from the financial institution to
41 complete the financial transaction;
42 completing the financial transaction between the consumer and the
43 merchant; and
44 notifying the financial institution that the financial transaction is complete.

1 10-12 (Canceled).

1 13. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of ~~claim~~
2 ~~12~~ claim 9, wherein requesting by the merchant that the financial institution
3 authorize the financial transaction involves:
4 creating a second hash of the financial transaction by the merchant;
5 sending the secure envelope and the second hash to the financial
6 institution;
7 decrypting at the financial institution the secure envelope using the private
8 key of the financial institution;
9 comparing the first hash with the second hash; and
10 if the first hash is identical to the second hash,
11 decrypting the encrypted account number to recover the
12 account number for the account belonging to the consumer,

13 verifying that the financial transaction is valid for the
14 account, and
15 if valid, authorizing the financial transaction.

1 14. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13,
2 wherein verifying that the financial transaction is valid for the account includes:
3 verifying that the second certificate was signed by the financial institution;
4 determining that the account is valid; and
5 ensuring that a transaction amount is not greater than an authorized
6 transaction amount.

1 15. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of ~~claim~~
2 ~~12~~ claim 9, wherein the secure site available only to the consumer is within the
3 smart card.

1 16 (Canceled)

1 17. (Currently amended) An apparatus that facilitates secure electronic
2 commerce, comprising:
3 a providing mechanism configured to provide a consumer with a file of
4 security data relating to an account maintained by a financial institution, wherein
5 the file of security data is provided to the consumer on a smart card , and wherein
6 the file of security data includes:
7 a consumer identifier,
8 a private key for encryption and authentication of data,
9 a first public key related to the private key for decryption
10 and authentication of data,
11 an identifier identifying the financial institution,

12 a second public key belonging to the financial institution,
13 the account number that has been encrypted with a key
14 known only to the financial institution creating an encrypted
15 account number,
16 a first certificate signed by a recognized certificate authority
17 that validates the financial institution,
18 a second certificate signed by the financial institution that
19 validates the consumer, and
20 computer algorithms to use the file of security data;
21 a first creating mechanism configured to create a financial transaction
22 between the consumer and a merchant, wherein the financial transaction is
23 protected using security data from the file, and wherein the financial transaction is
24 structured to contain an account number in a form that is undecipherable by the
25 merchant, thereby prevent the merchant from knowing the account number for the
26 account;
27 a second creating mechanism that is configured to create a first hash of the
28 financial transaction; and
29 an encrypting mechanism that is configured to encrypt the first hash, the
30 second certificate, and the encrypted account number using the second public key
31 creating a secure envelope of transaction data, wherein the first hash is created at a
32 secure site available only to the consumer;
33 a first validating mechanism that is configured to validate that the financial
34 institution identified by the financial transaction is acceptable using security data
35 from the file;
36 a second receiving mechanism at the merchant that is configured to receive
37 the first certificate; and
38 a second validating mechanism that is configured to validate that the first
39 certificate was signed by the recognized certificate authority;

40 a requesting mechanism that is configured to request that the financial
41 institution authorize the financial transaction;
42 a first receiving mechanism that is configured to receive an authorization
43 from the financial institution to complete the financial transaction;
44 a completing mechanism that is configured to complete the financial
45 transaction between the consumer and the merchant; and
46 a notifying mechanism that is configured to notify the financial institution
47 that the financial transaction is complete.

1 18-20 (Canceled).

1 | 21. (Currently amended) The apparatus of ~~claim 20~~ claim 17, further
2 comprising:
3 a creating mechanism that is configured to create a second hash of the
4 financial transaction by the merchant;
5 a sending mechanism that is configured to send the secure envelope and
6 the second hash to the financial institution;
7 a decrypting mechanism that is configured to decrypt the secure envelope
8 using the private key of the financial institution;
9 a comparing mechanism that is configured to compare the first hash with
10 the second hash;
11 wherein the decrypting mechanism is further configured to decrypt the
12 encrypted account number to recover the account number for the account
13 belonging to the consumer;
14 a first verifying mechanism that is configured to verify that the financial
15 transaction is valid for the account; and
16 an authorizing mechanism that is configured to authorize the financial
17 transaction.

1 22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising:
2 a second verifying mechanism that is configured to verify that the second
3 certificate was signed by the financial institution;
4 a determining mechanism that is configured to determine that the account
5 is valid; and
6 an ensuring mechanism that is configured to ensure that a transaction
7 amount is not greater than an authorized transaction amount.

1 | 23. (Currently amended) The apparatus of ~~claim 20~~ claim 17, wherein the
2 secure site available only to the consumer is within the smart card.

1 24 (Canceled)